ALBERTA INDEPENDENCE

A GUIDE FOR TRADESPEOPLE

YOUR WORK. YOUR LAND. YOUR FUTURE.

APP
ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Message from Mitch 6

Oh Canada 9

Support for independence 13

1: The equalization Problem 15

2: Your trades, your future 17

3: What independence means for you 20

4: Making life more affordable 21

5: Albertan Values 22

6: Immigration 24

7: National Defence 26

Table of Contents

8: Public Safety 27

9: Education 28

10: Taxes 29

11: Canada Pension Plan 31

12: Impact of independence 33

13: Healthcare 35

14: Social services 36

15: Environment 37

16: Final Thoughts 39

Thank you for taking a courageous step for the future of Alberta

The future of Alberta is OUR future—the future of our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

How is something so grand accomplished? By Albertans just like you inviting those they care about to a respectful discussion.

Many are afraid of change and of what it would look like if Albertans took more control over our own future. A lot of this hesitation is based on our natural fear of something new, but also on vague warnings from those who oppose setting Alberta free.

While Ottawa has taxpayer funded media as their mouthpiece, the people of Alberta have something stronger: **relationship** and **community**.

So grab some treats and invite your friends and family over for a chat!

They may not all end up agreeing with you, but you will have planted powerful seeds and facts. We recommend an informal, friendly environment with treats provided. Present the facts but don't take it personally if it doesn't bear fruit just yet.

The following guide is intended to help make that discussion easier with topics laid out by subject. Print the pages following this one as handouts to help keep the discussion on track and for participants to take home after. If people decline an invitation to an informational get together, see if they would be willing to read this handout at home and meet you one-on-one after to discuss.

Alberta wasn't built in a day.

> *It will be you who will determine whether or not you want to see more of your lives directed and controlled by Ottawa.*

— **PETER LOUGHEED**
10TH PREMIER OF ALBERTA

> *Albertans built this province with their own hands.*
> *It's time we had the right to decide our own future.*

— **MITCH SYLVESTRE**
CEO ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT

Alberta Prosperity Project

Dear Alberta Citizen:

First off, thank you for being here. I appreciate that you made the decision to listen and consider the reasons behind the growing sovereignty movement in Alberta. Today, we are facing a significant crossroads—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to send a message to Ottawa about our province's future, lawfully and democratically.

But in order for the democratic process to be just, we must have an informed citizenry. That is why I chose to lead the Alberta Prosperity Project: to educate Albertans about the reality of our province's relationship to confederation and the choices we have.

Like many of you, I had never imagined I would be involved in provincial politics—I was a local business owner, father, and grandfather, proud of this country and this province. But after learning about the direction that Ottawa is taking us and the very real stakes involved, I felt there is no choice but to act out of concern for the future of my family, fellow Albertans, and our province.

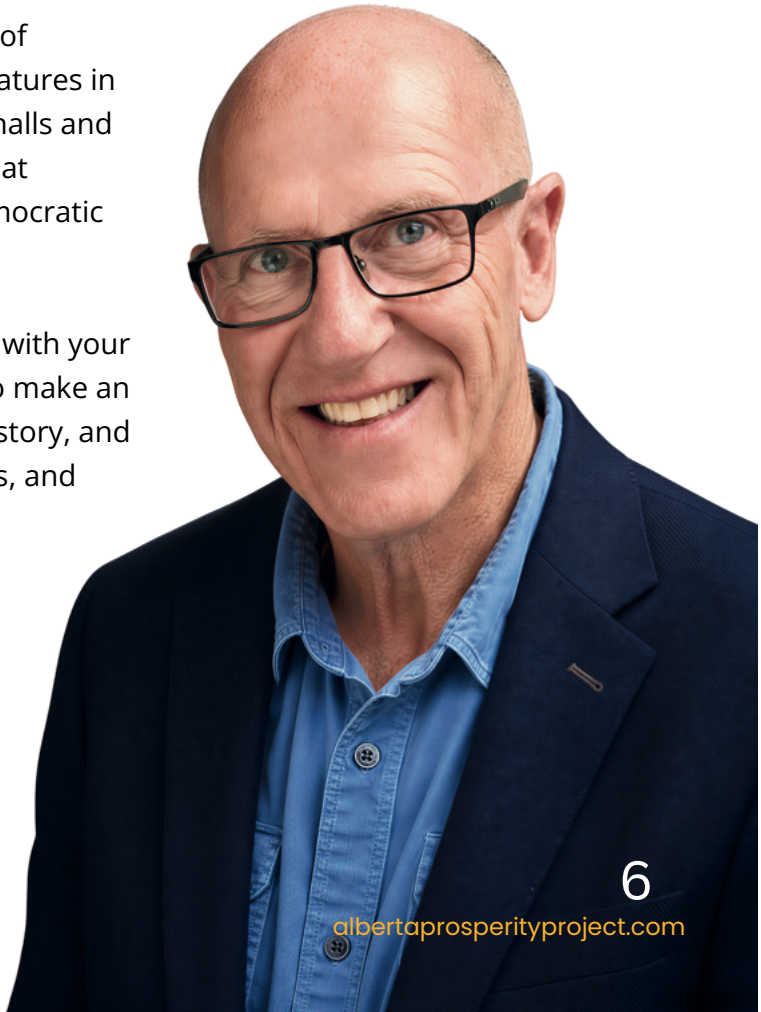
This is a grassroots movement—built by thousands of volunteers spending countless hours collecting signatures in the cold of winter, organizing and speaking at townhalls and gatherings, and creating educational materials so that Albertans can shape their own future through a democratic referendum.

I invite you to take what you learn here and share it with your friends and family so they too can be empowered to make an informed choice. This is a moment that will make history, and I believe we can secure a stronger, more prosperous, and freer Alberta for the next generation.

Let's Go!

Sincerely,

Mitch Sylvestre
CEO, Alberta Prosperity Project



WHAT'S EVERYONE GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT

Thank you for taking a courageous step for the future of Alberta

The future of Alberta is YOUR future. It's in your hands to build from the ground up. The world's newest nation.

So why is there a growing movement of almost half of Albertans who want to change the status quo?

Isn't that risky? Unpatriotic? Unfeasible, even?

The following information is intended to help explain why so many are considering the future in a new light. Some of the things you read may surprise you—please feel free to research them further.

A word of caution: the mainstream media in Canada are funded by taxpayer dollars (CBC, for example, receives approximately $1.4 billion annually, with Mark Carney pledging an additional $150 million annually). If Albertan taxpayers stop funding them, they stand to lose a great deal of money. Please bear this in mind as you hear their dire predictions. They will paint those seeking change in a poor light. But you know your friends. Likely the person who shared this with you is a friend trying to reach out. They have nothing to gain by sharing this with you and may in fact be risking a rebuff. Your best research will be done by looking at numbers rather than editorial pieces by paid pundits.

To research the following information more thoroughly, please read *The Value of Freedom* document available at albertaprosperityproject.com.

Oh, Canada

Whether we were born in Canada or chose it later, the name “Canada” has meant something dear to us.

Oh, Canada

Love for your country is a powerful and beautiful thing.

When we think of Canada, a country that has been known for its friendliness, peacekeeping, and beautiful scenery, many Albertans feel a sense of loss.

Our love for our country is touched by a deeper sense of abandonment when we look at what Canada has become over the past several decades. We know we were privileged to live in one of the greatest countries in the world, built on strong values and a respect for our fellow Canadians. But now it grieves us to see Canada disrespecting those values.

We have been watching the direction the country has been taking and do not agree with the course that has been set. The values of the East are drifting further and further from the values of the West and the East is at the helm.

We are among the most taxed citizens in the world, with little representation to show for it. We know the results of the federal election before the votes of the West are even counted. If a Conservative leader does get in, their voter base is out East and they must always consider the East before Alberta.

When we have lived with peace and prosperity for many years, it can be hard to believe that it will fail. Throughout history, nations have changed drastically, yet it's difficult to believe it could happen here... happen now... **happen to us.**

But those seeking to forge a stronger Alberta are not doing so out of fear.

We are doing so out of hope! Many of our parents and grandparents came to Canada, leaving their own country behind. We don't view them as traitors to their country of birth. Instead, we are grateful to them for taking a clear-eyed, unsentimental look at the road ahead. They took a chance on a new way of life and risked redefining themselves to provide a better future for their children and grandchildren.

Their heritage was still a part of them, even with immigration, with many weaving a new tapestry for their children out of old threads and new.

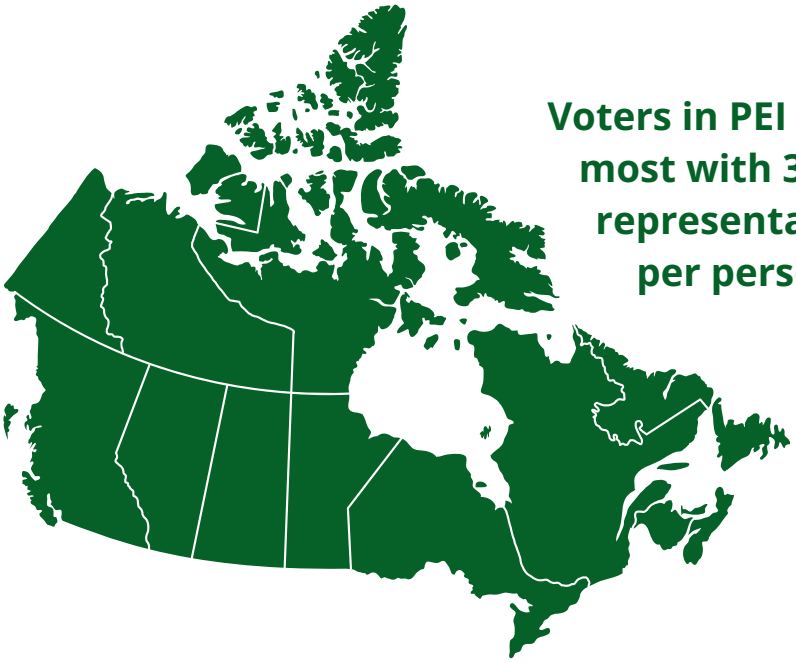
Alberta seeks to honour and foster REAL Canadian values by staying true to the values of our childhood and heritage, charting a different course from the decline of the eastern provinces.

Oh, Canada

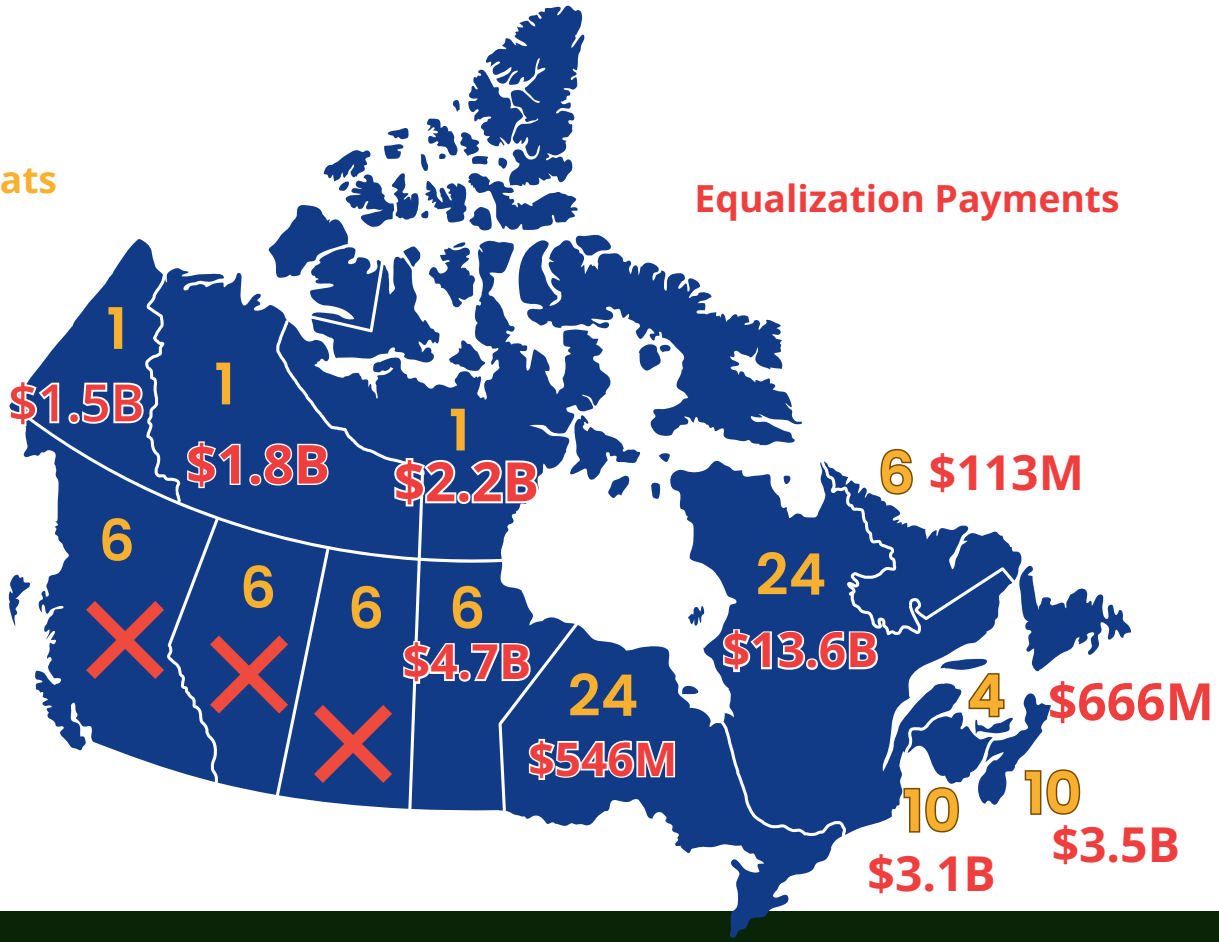
Alberta has a large average population per riding.

What does that mean?

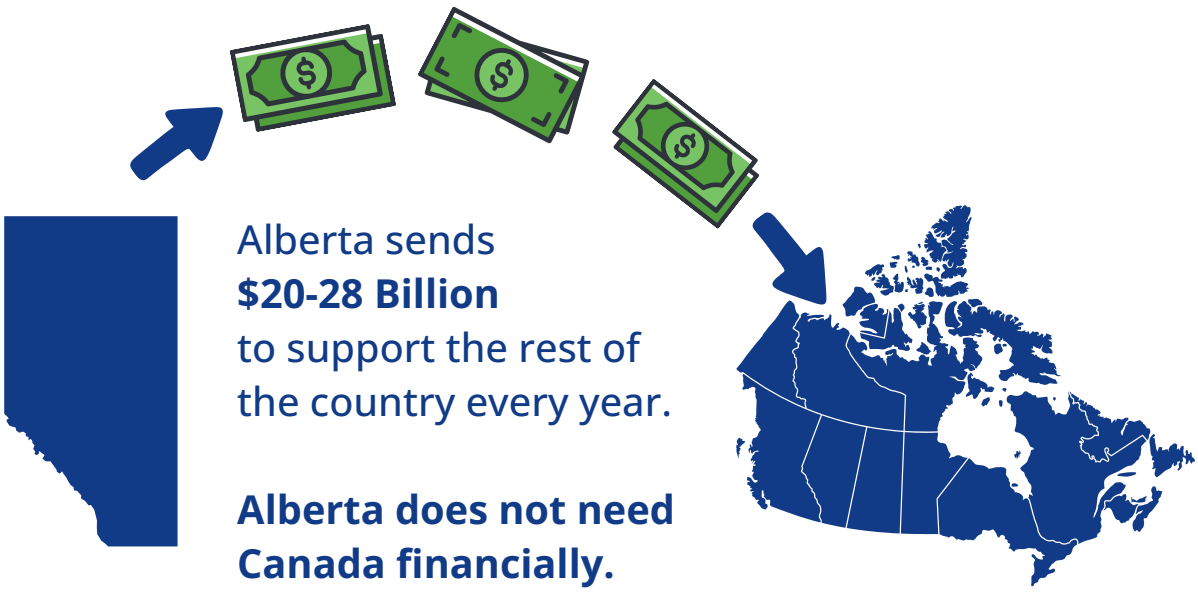
Voters in most other provinces and territories have more voting power than an Albertan.



Voters in PEI get the most with 3x the representation per person



Oh, Canada



Alberta sends
$20-28 Billion
to support the rest of
the country every year.

Alberta does not need Canada financially.

Alberta's oil revenue is fully counted when calculating Equalization payments while provinces like Quebec undercount resources allowing them to appear "poorer".

If hydropower were valued like oil, Quebec's payments could be reduced by billions.

SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE

A lot of people who support Alberta independence often say they want to ensure a better life for future generations of Albertans.

- Federal policies are often not in the best interests of Albertans and do not reflect the realities of life in Alberta and the needs and priorities of the people who live and work here.
- An Alberta government that is free from federal control is better able to make decisions and policies that benefit Albertans, rather than benefitting the federal government's agenda.
- More control over spending could mean greater investment in things that affect everyday life — like healthcare, education, social services, and infrastructure.
- Potential changes such as lower personal taxes, reduced pension contributions, and increased benefits are ways to make life more affordable for individuals and families.

SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE

- An independent Alberta is also committed to sustainability and protecting the environment, but not through constraining federal policies that hurt the economy with no demonstrated environmental benefits.

- Having more control over policing could allow Alberta to create policies to improve public safety in both rural and urban areas.

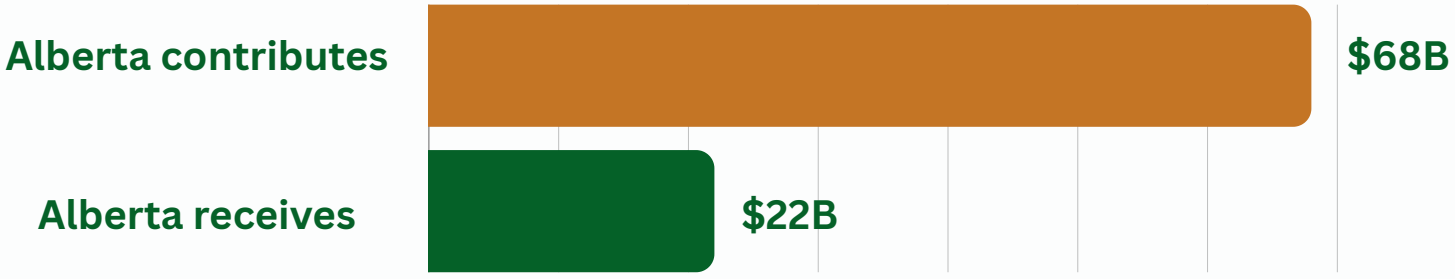
- People who support independence believe that Albertans should have more control over decisions that shape their lives — today and in the future.

CHAPTER 1

THE EQUALIZATION PROBLEM

Alberta has been a net contributor to Canada's equalization program since the 1960s. As a tradesperson, every dollar you earn contributes to a federal system that sends billions to other provinces while Alberta's infrastructure and workforce go underfunded.

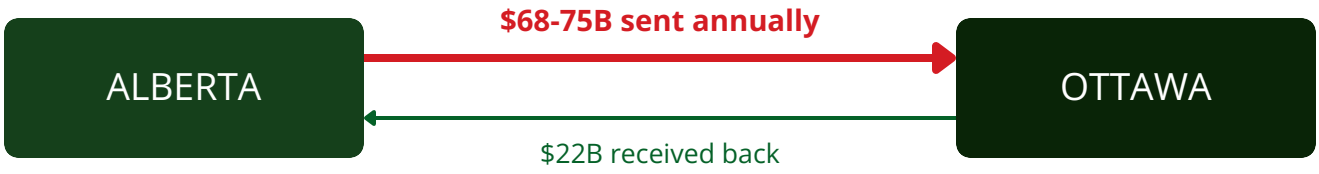
> **Alberta sends more to Ottawa than it ever gets back.**



An independent Alberta would not have to make equalization payments anymore, because Alberta would no longer be part of Canada's federal fiscal system. Having to make equalization payments is frustrating for many Albertans because federal policies like emissions caps and energy regulations often directly hinder Alberta's economic potential.

It is true that Alberta would no longer receive federal transfer payments. However, because Alberta pays much more federal tax than it receives in transfer, this is not a concern. Keeping the full annual $68-75 billion in Alberta could easily cover current provincial costs as well as costs for taking over federally provided services and supports.

The Fiscal Flow



Net loss to Alberta: ~$46-53B per year

CHAPTER 2

YOUR TRADES, YOUR FUTURE

Federal regulations on energy have directly threatened Alberta's skilled trades sector. Pipeline cancellations, carbon levies, and emissions caps have cost thousands of jobs. An independent Alberta would control its own resource development - protecting your livelihood and your family.

Over 100,000 trades jobs ties to Alberta energy sector

Federal emissions caps threaten future project approvals

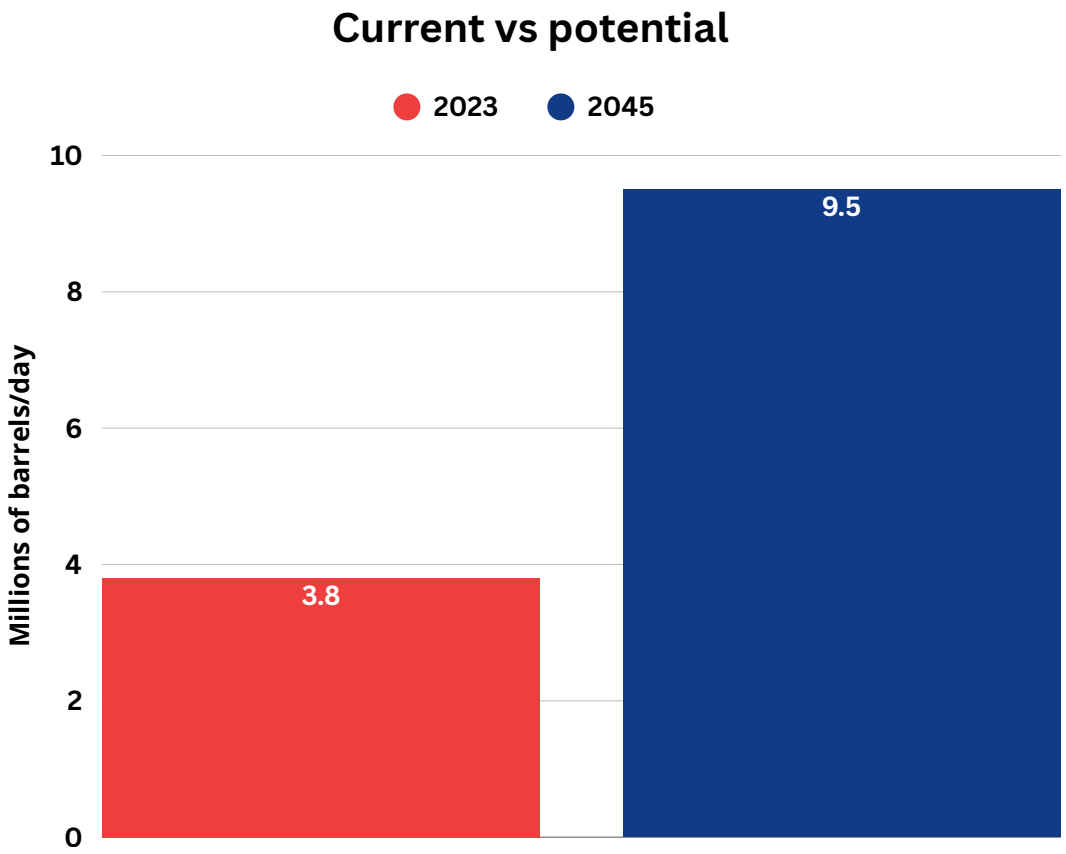
$100B+ in GDP generated by Alberta workers annually

The energy industry is a major part of Alberta's economy, and many trades workers are interested in what greater control over resources could mean for their careers. Federal policies often restrict how much and how quickly Alberta can develop its resources. Having more control over resource decisions would allow Alberta to create policies designed around its own economic priorities, with the potential for resource development to greatly increase.

Estimates suggest that oil production could increase from 3.8 million barrels per day in 2023 to 9.5 million by 2045, while natural gas production could increase from 11 billion cubic feet per day to 21 billion.

More resource development could mean more major projects and investments in Alberta - and more demand for skilled workers. That could include more opportunities for welders, electricians, pipefitters, heavy equipment operators, mechanics, construction workers, and many other trades.

Increased investment, fewer regulatory barriers, and control over trade (allowing Alberta's resources to reach new international markets) could lead to sDirect revenue from economic growth and the ability for Alberta's resources to reach new international markets could lead to significant economic growth and the creation of hundreds of thousands of new jobs.



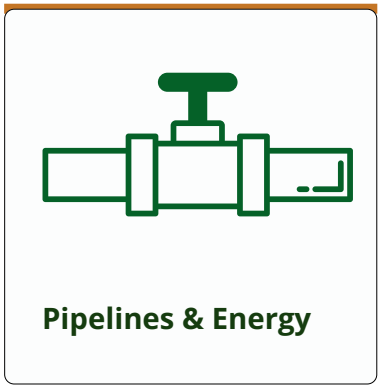
Having more control over finances would allow Alberta to make its own decisions about where to invest. Investing in infrastructure, including roads, pipelines, and public transportation has been identified as a priority.

Alberta pays $68-75 billion annually in federal tax contributions and receives only $22-26 billion in federal transfers. This means that Alberta has a net loss of $44-47 billion dollars a year. An independent Alberta could retain the full $68-75 billion.

This increased revenue would transform Alberta's fiscal landscape, allowing for significant investments into aging infrastructure.

More investment could mean more work opportunities for a variety of skilled trades.

Stronger infrastructure spending could help increase opportunities for trades workers while building projects Alberta needs to enhance economic efficiency and ensure a strong future.



More infrastructure = more trades opportunities

CHAPTER 3

WHAT INDEPENDENCE MEANS FOR YOU

An independent Alberta would set its own tax rates, negotiate its own trade deals, and build pipelines to tidewater without federal interference. For tradespeople, this means more projects, better wages, and a government that actually listens to workers.

- Control over resource revenues and royalties
- Alberta Pension Plan - keeping your retirement dollars home
- Provincial trade agreements with the U.S. and beyond
- No federal carbon tax on your fuel and equipment
- Infrastructure investment decided by Albertans, for Albertans

YOUR VOICE MATTERS. LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED.

CHAPTER 4

MAKING LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE

There could be lots of opportunities to make life more affordable for families if Alberta was independent. Keeping more, or all, of that money in Alberta would allow continued funding for all current services, as well as taking over programs currently managed federally, and investing more into public services.

- Depending on how a future tax system is designed, proposed **reductions range from about 29% to 46%.**
- Reducing post-secondary education fees to **25% of current fees**
- Lowering pension contribution rates using the Alberta Pension Plan
- Providing free Pharmacare and dental coverage for low-income families, children under 18, and retirees

CHAPTER 5

VALUES OF ALBERTANS BETTER REPRESENTED

An Alberta government that has more control over policies, spending, and decision-making could be better able to represent the values of Albertans, in comparison to the federal government that is positioned far from Alberta and may not understand Alberta's priorities and concerns.

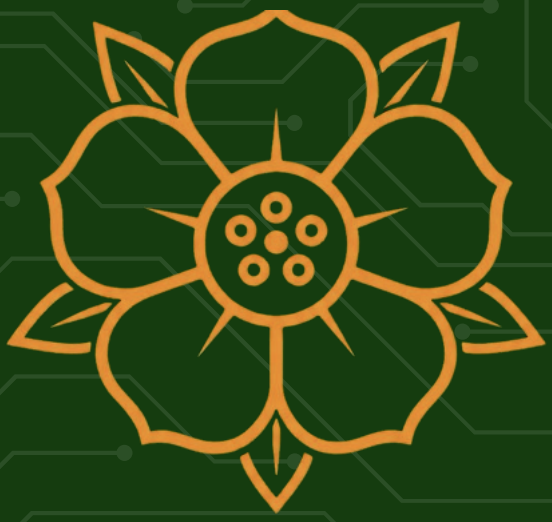
Federal services, which Alberta helps fund, are often ineffective and inefficient, including a limited national defense and international relations which often involve negative portrayals of Alberta's resource industries, which can hinder Alberta's economic potential.

The provincial government, no matter what party is in power, is constrained by federal decisions, meaning that they often have limited control over policies that have major impacts on Albertans.

Hard work, which many Albertans value, is often not rewarded by federal policies, which restrict Alberta's natural resource development and economic growth. An independent Alberta could put the values, needs, and priorities of Albertans first. Alberta would have more ability to design policies around local needs, including resource development, infrastructure, public safety, and services.

ALBERTA INDEPENDENCE

BUILT BY WORKERS. BUILT TO LAST.



Alberta's tradespeople have built this province from the ground up. It is time to build its future on our own terms.

For more information, visit your local union hall or community organization.

YOUR WORK. YOUR LAND. YOUR FUTURE.

CHAPTER 6

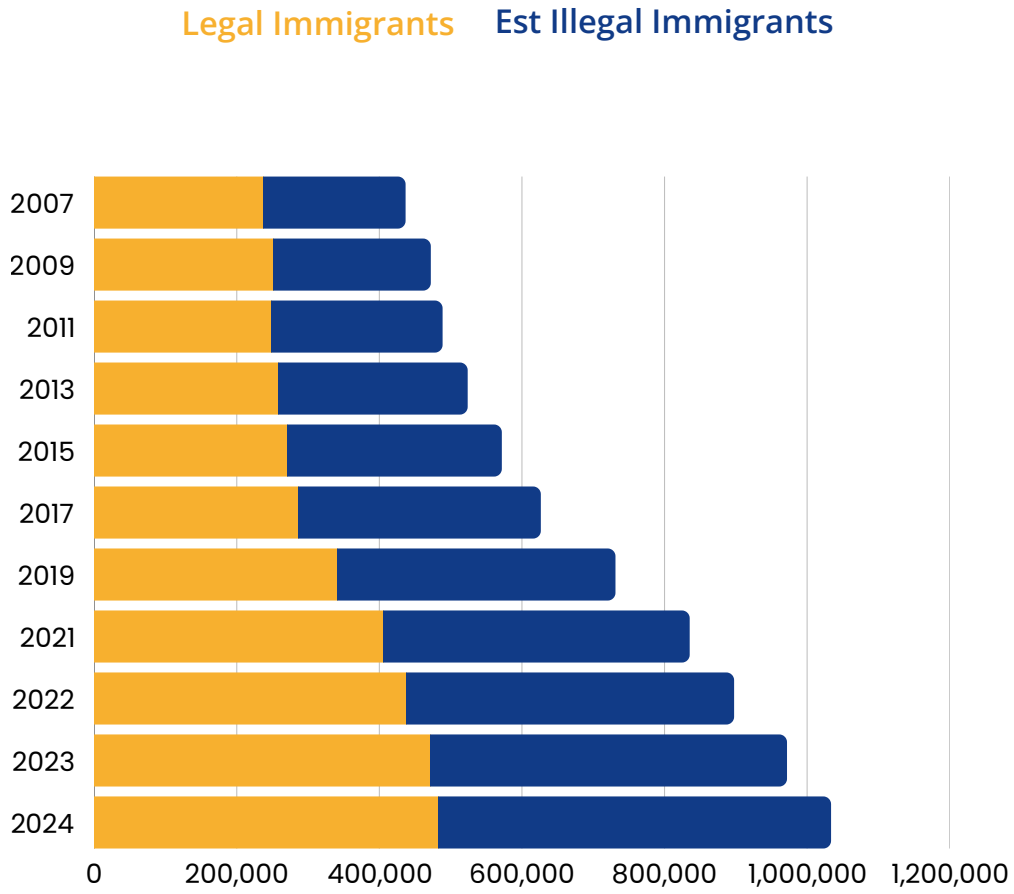
IMIGRATION SERVICES

Control over immigration is a major reason that Alberta independence is desired. The federal government is the ultimate authority on all matters involving immigration, and they have final decision-making power. This means that Alberta does not have much control over immigration into the province.

With control over immigration and deportation policies, Alberta could create its own rules to prevent acceptance of applicants with criminal convictions or jail sentences, while still allowing for appeals and humanitarian exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Rapid Pace of Immigration and Cultural Change

Many Alberta residents, including immigrants, have expressed concerns over the federal immigration policy's ever-increasing rate as it changes the cultural fabric of communities faster than integration can accommodate.



An independent Alberta could focus on immigration policies that are skills-based and in line with priority skills needed in Alberta, in industries such as energy, technology, and agriculture.

Controlling immigration also means that Alberta could deport non-citizens with criminal convictions. Many people feel that current federal immigration policies are too lenient on criminals. Public consultation would be sought to ensure that policies are in line with the interests of Albertans.

CHAPTER 7

NATIONAL DEFENCE

An independent Alberta would establish the Alberta Military for national defense. Financial plans for independence include taking over responsibilities that are currently managed federally, which includes national defense.

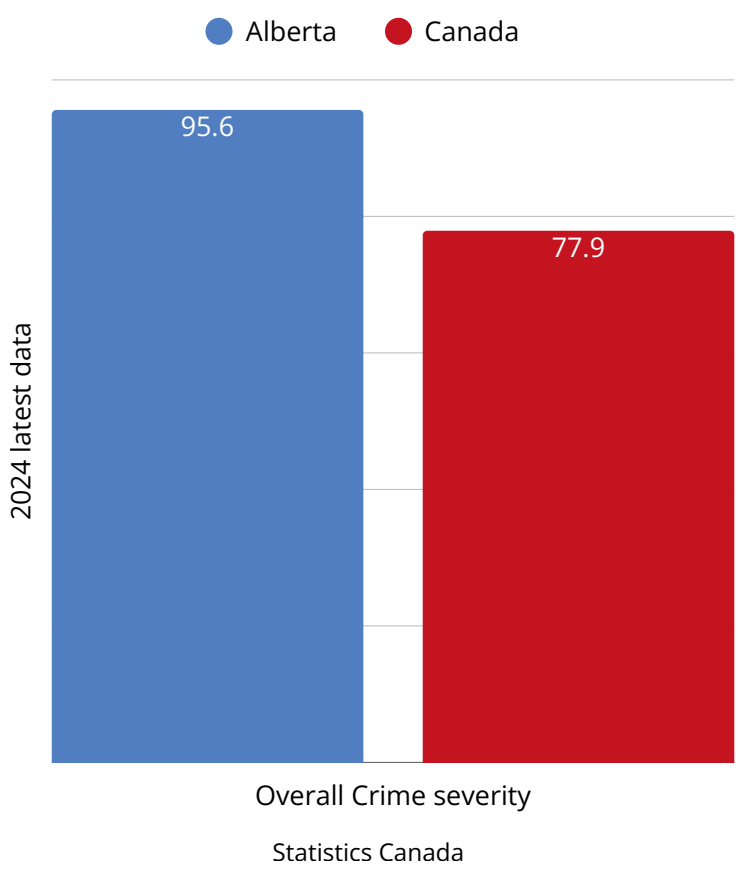
Estimated costs for defense are projected at about $3–5 billion per year, with additional one-time startup costs of approximately $1–2.5 billion for things like equipment, facilities, and cybersecurity.

The proposed plan also includes support for Canadian Military members who choose to transfer to the Alberta Military, including pension support, education opportunities, and transition assistance.

CHAPTER 8
PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is a major reason for wanting independence. Crime rates have risen substantially in the last decade and federal policies have done little to reverse this concerning trend.

The goal is for Albertans to feel safer than they do currently. Concerns about public safety have increased over the last decade, across Canada.



https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510002601&pickMembers%5B0%5D=1.33&cubeTimeFrame.startYear=2018&cubeTimeFrame.endYear=2024&referencePeriods=20180101%2C20240101

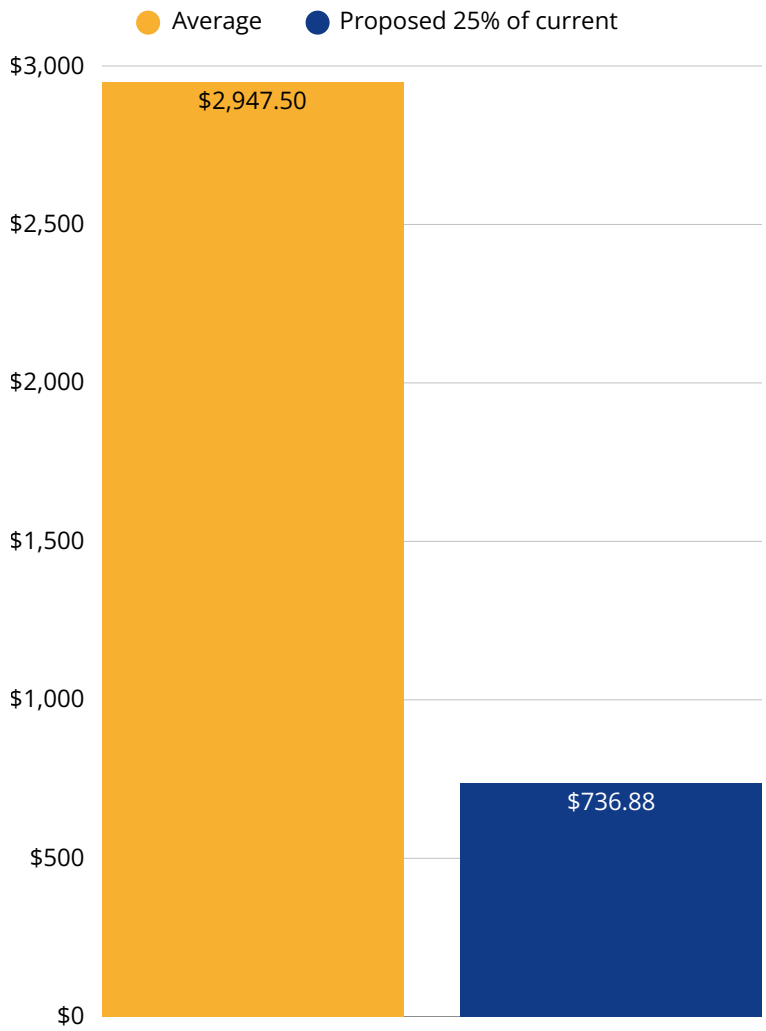
CHAPTER 9

EDUCATION

Education would continue to be an important part of Alberta's future. Alberta already manages its own education system, including K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, because education is mainly under provincial responsibility.

Financial planning for an independent Alberta includes covering current provincial spending for education. All current spending would be maintained, and investing additional funds into education and other public services is a priority.

One proposed idea is reducing post-secondary tuition fees (including trades and technical schools) to 25% of current levels. This would make education more accessible, reduce student debt, and help young Albertans start their careers in a stronger financial position.



Cost of 16 week apprenticeship https://www.sait.ca/apprenticeships-and-trades/paying-for-your-apprenticeship

CHAPTER 10

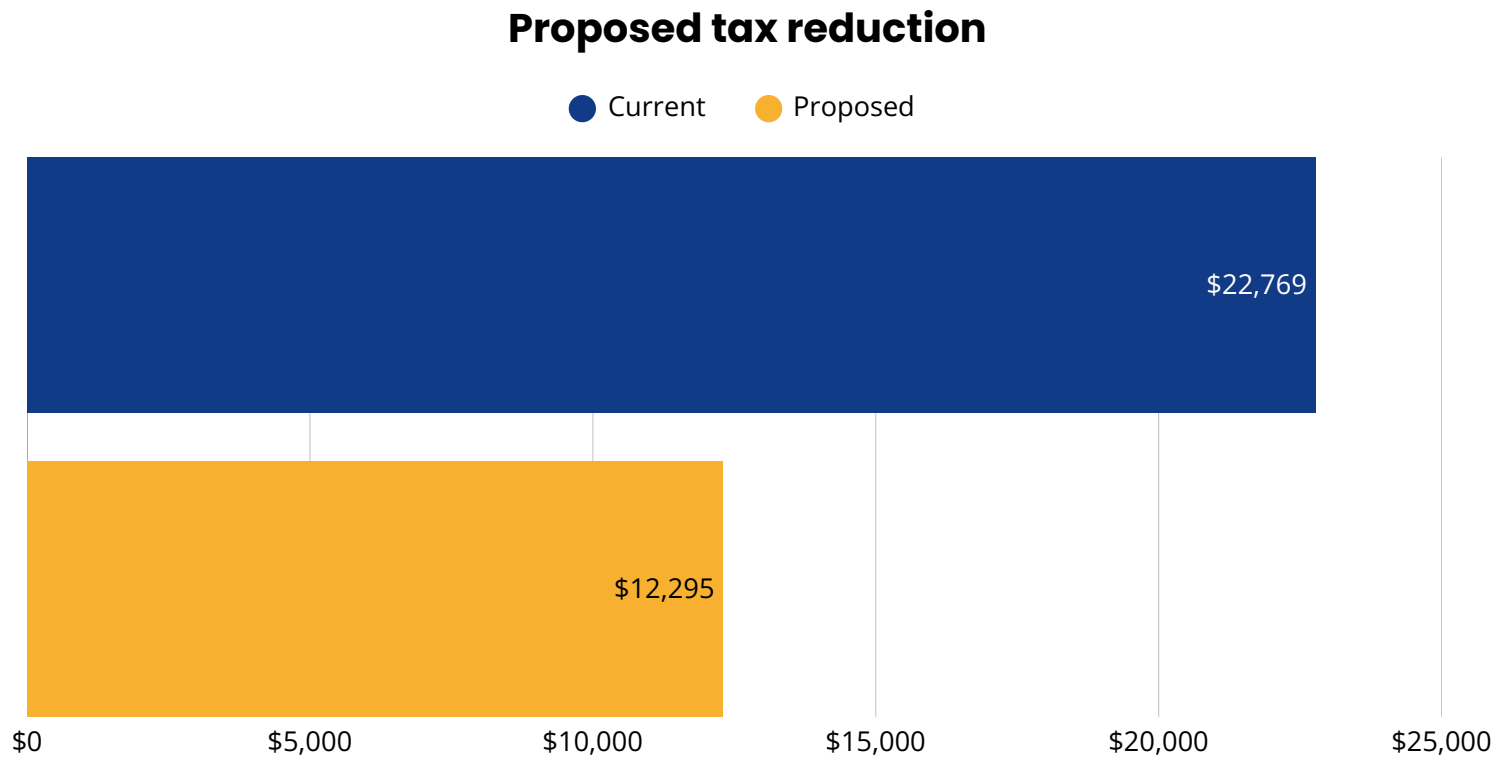
TAXES

Albertans work hard for their money. Keeping more of that money in the pockets of workers is a priority.

Tax reductions are very possible.
If Alberta kept the full $68-75 billion currently sent to Ottawa in federal taxes, the province would have more money available to make decisions about spending and taxation.

This surplus could be used to reduce taxes for Albertans - a priority for many people.
One proposed approach includes eliminating federal GST and personal income tax entirely.

This would reduce taxes by 29% per person, on average.
Other proposals could see further reductions of up to 46% per person.



https://www.taxtips.ca/taxrates/ab.htm

The exact tax system would be decided during negotiations and the transition process, but reducing the tax burden on Albertans is a key goal of an independent Alberta.

CHAPTER 11

CANADA PENSION PLAN

Your CPP is yours, and your benefits can follow you anywhere.

Many people receive CPP benefits enough though they no longer live in Canada. As long as your CPP contributions were made while working in Canada, you can receive your benefits no matter where you live.

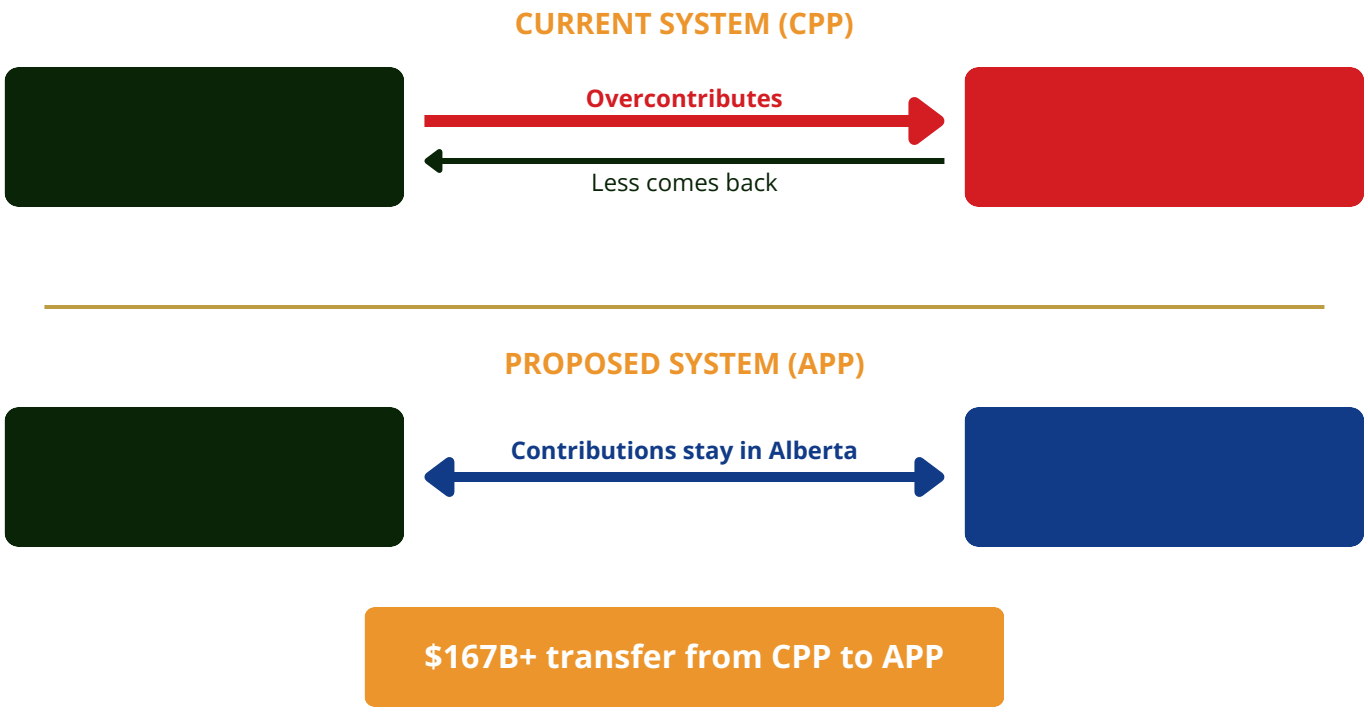
There has been a lot of work done to develop a proposal for a new Alberta Pension Plan (APP). The APP would be funded by a transfer of CPP assets from the federal government, investment returns (with investments made using APP contributions), and ongoing contributions from Alberta workers and employers.

As an estimate, Alberta should receive at least $167 billion in CPP assets as a transfer from the CPP. Alberta is likely owed nearly double this amount, so this is a very conservative estimate.

Currently, Alberta overcontributes to the CPP because of the younger workforce and higher employment rate - this means that Alberta gives more money to the CPP than our pensioners get back from the federal government.

The APP would have a higher annual revenue because there would be no contributions made to the CPP. This additional revenue could be used to lower contribution rates for Albertans, increase pension payouts and disability benefits, and replace federal programs like Canada Old Age Security (OAS).

HOW THE ALBERTA PENSION PLAN WOULD WORK



$167B+ transfer from CPP to APP

- Lower contribution rates
- Higher pension payouts
- Expanded disability benefits
- Replace OAS with Alberta program

CHAPTER 12

IMPACT OF INDEPENDENCE

The goal of Alberta independence is to create a better future for all Albertans, and for future generations.

The idea is that keeping more revenue within Alberta creates more opportunities to invest in programs and services that benefit Albertans. This includes the $68–75 billion currently sent to Ottawa in federal taxes.

If the economy grows, Alberta could invest more into important services like healthcare, education, infrastructure, and social programs. Reducing post-secondary education fees has already been proposed as a possible priority initiative. Potential changes could include lower personal taxes, lower pension contribution rates with higher payouts, expanded public services, and investments aimed at improving affordability and opportunity.

A stronger economy and more job opportunities, potentially aided by corporate tax reductions, could help young Albertans and skilled trades workers build their careers and stay in Alberta.

IMPACT OF INDEPENDENCE CONT.

There are many questions to consider when it comes to Alberta independence, but what it comes down to is simple: **Do you believe Albertans would be better served if more decisions about Alberta's future were made in Alberta?**

The provincial government, no matter what party is in power, is constrained by federal decisions, meaning that they often have limited control over policies that have major impacts on Albertans. With more control, Alberta could set its own priorities to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of

Alberta's workers, families, and pensioners.
Local decisions are often better able to reflect the values of Albertans and the realities of life in Alberta.

It is important to remember that wanting independence for Alberta does not have to mean that you dislike Canada - it means that you want to do what you can to give Alberta the best chance to succeed.

CHAPTER 13

HEALTHCARE

Healthcare would be a major priority.
Healthcare is already largely managed and funded within Alberta, with hospitals, doctors, nurses, and other services falling under provincial jurisdiction.

Financial plans for an independent Alberta include maintaining current provincial spending, including healthcare funding. However, instead of just maintaining current spending, proposals have also been outlined to increase healthcare funding to reduce wait times, increase access, and enhance quality of life.

Proposed priorities have included expanding healthcare coverage, such as providing free pharmacy and dental care for 1.5 million children, low-income households, and retirees.

CHAPTER 14

SOCIAL SERVICES

The goal is to strengthen programs that support Albertans and improve quality of life.

Yes, an independent Alberta would be able to cover the costs of social services.
The majority of social services are already under provincial jurisdiction, meaning that Alberta administers and covers the costs of these programs.

Financial estimates for an independent Alberta include maintaining current provincial spending, including funding for social services.

With the additional funds that an independent Alberta would have as a result of retaining the $44-47 billion that is currently lost to federal taxes, along with possible increased revenues from Alberta's growth, there would be enough money to cover current federally funded services (such as Employment Insurance, or EI), and also opportunities to invest more money into social services.

CHAPTER 15

ENVIRONMENT

The goal would be to support both a strong economy and a healthy, more resilient environment

Alberta would have control over its own environmental regulations and policies.
Federal policies, such as emissions caps, often disproportionately impact Alberta, restricting economic development without demonstrating meaningful environmental benefits. They also do not take the distinct landscapes of each province into account.

Alberta could create an environmental strategy that harnesses the local environment to be more effective and more sustainable.

This could include using Alberta's natural landscapes — including grasslands, peatlands, swamps, foothills, and mountain forests — that can naturally store carbon very effectively. Using these resources could be part of a made-in-Alberta approach to environmental management.

CHAPTER 16

FINAL THOUGHTS

Citizenship & Travel

Anyone born in Canada will always be a Canadian citizen. 3 million Canadians currently don't live in Canada, and over 3 million have dual citizenship, including 48 MPs.

G20 Countries

IN RECESSION

Canada

NOT IN RECESSION

USA
Australia
Brazil
Argentina
China
France
Germany
India
Indonesia
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Russia
Saudi Arabia
South Africa
South Korea
Turkey
UK

Government Overreach and Violation of Rights and Freedoms

There are growing concerns about the federal government granting itself too much power in recent years.

Bill C-8:
This bill gives the federal government more control over telecommunications access like internet and cell service. Government could order companies to block someone's access to the internet without going through a court, and without public transparency. While the stated goal is to improve cybersecurity, there are concerns that this would lead to government overreach, less transparency, and violations of personal freedoms.

Bill C-9:
This bill focuses on stopping hate speech and hate-based actions. That's not a bad thing! The controversy is around how broadly terms like "hate" and "intimidation" are defined. The government might not apply these definitions consistently or fairly, potentially targeting certain groups. Freedom of speech and expression may be stifled.

Bill C-22:
This bill is meant to help police fight crime and improve cybersecurity by expanding digital surveillance powers. However, the bill gives too much access to people's online information, even if they are not suspected of a crime. Concerns have been raised about data collection and protections from unreasonable search. Major tech companies like Apple, Google, and Meta have voiced concerns about the privacy violations of this bill.

Bill C-34:
This bill would restrict social media access for anyone under 16 and give the government the power to decide what content is considered "harmful", for all users. Once again, the definitions are broad and could lead to government censorship, which is in direct conflict with the principles of democracy. It is also concerning that young people could lose access to online communities, support networks, and spaces where they share ideas, as well as making digital ID necessary for all ages, leading to potential "social credit" like restrictions.

Myth: "Alberta can't leave Canada—it's not legal."

FACT: Alberta has the legal right to leave. The law is already in place!

In 1998, the Supreme Court ruled that any province has the right to pursue independence if there is a clear majority vote (that's from the landmark Reference Secession of Quebec case).

In response, **Parliament passed the Clarity Act in 2000**, confirming the same thing: if a majority of Albertans vote to leave, the federal government must negotiate our exit.

No new laws are needed. We already have the constitutional path laid out.

Myth: "Only the radical fringe want independence."

FACT: Polls regularly show 38%-45% support—we just have to choose it.

Myth: "Alberta is landlocked so it can't trade."

FACT:
Alberta already exports billions. Having more control won't block trade—it strengthens our leverage to negotiate better access with a pipeline-hostile Canadian government.

Alberta can more freely negotiate trade agreements with the US, and more. Our oil, food, and minerals give us massive leverage. We could also enjoy a mutually tariff-free relationship with the US.

Thank you for reading and considering the different options the future holds.

To find out more, please visit:
albertaprosperityproject.com

ALBERTA PROSPERITY PROJECT

OUR FUTURE.
OUR CHOICE.